

ABSTRACT

A LCD comprises a surface light source device of side light type for auxiliary lighting. A fluorescent lamp is turned on to supply primary light to be introduced into a guide plate. A back face (upper face) of the guide plate provides a light control face including an emission promoting surface to promote emission from an illumination output face (lower face). The illumination output face provides a specular face without scattering power. Illumination light L2 introduced into the guide plate escapes gradually from the back face and the illumination output face on the way of propagation.

Some of illumination light emitted from the illumination output face reaches a reflection plate after transmitting a liquid crystal cell and polarization plates. Quantity of light reaching the reflection plate depends on directions of transmission polarization planes of first and second polarization plates as well as state of a liquid crystal layer (depending on voltage applied to transparent electrodes). The reflection plate reflects and scatters illumination output light. Some of thus reflected and scattered illumination output light is emitted out of the device after transmitting a polarization plate, the liquid crystal cell,

the guide plate and another polarization plate in order, thereby contributing to displaying. The light control face (back face) is provided with emission promoting property to promote escaping of light L2 from the illumination output face. This emission promoting property is provided so as to be once getting stronger according to distance from an incidence end face 25A and to be followed by getting weaker. In another arrangement, a guide plate is disposed outside of a polarization plate in front of a liquid crystal cell or is interposed between the liquid crystal cell and another polarization plate on the back side thereof. (Fig.6)